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Recovery and mental health care: views of ED nurses

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Recovery and mental health care: views of ED nurses

Abstract

The demand for acute and emergency mental health care exceeds current supply of available services and it is well documented that registered nurses are increasingly caring for consumers with a mental illness as part of their daily work.

Keywords

recovery, mental, nurses, health, ed, care, views

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RECOVERY AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE: VIEWS OF ED NURSES

BY **DONNA MARYNOWSKI-TRACZYK, DR LORNA MOXHAM AND DR MARC BROADBENT**

The demand for acute and emergency mental health care exceeds current supply of available services and it is well documented that registered nurses are increasingly caring for consumers with a mental illness as part of their daily work. However, generalist RNs' practice is predicated on the medical model and the notion of recovery entrenched in this model of care is poles apart from recovery as understood and practiced in mental health care. How do RNs practising within the constructs of this traditional model view recovery for consumers?

PhD research is currently being undertaken at the University of Wollongong by Donna Marynowski-Traczyk under the supervision of Professor Lorna Moxham and Dr Marc Broadbent to explore this question and to investigate RNs' conceptions of recovery. It specifically aims to understand how RNs working

in Australian emergency departments (EDs) conceptualise recovery for consumers with a mental illness in the ED. The research is using a phenomenographic approach as this facilitates description of the diverse ways in which people conceptualise a phenomenon; and enables the research to focus on investigating the conceptions of ED RNs as a particular group.

Mental health presentations to Australian EDs are increasing (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2012), and yet many RNs who work in the ED have no formal mental health training. Insights will be gained through RNs' conceptions of recovery, and the differences that exist in the notion of recovery within these two contrasting models of care. This knowledge can be used to contribute to improving ED RNs' cognisance and understanding of recovery and what it means for the consumer; and may assist in promoting development of mental health competence in clinical practice. In addition to supporting ED

RNs in development of knowledge and skills to care for people experiencing mental illness, the findings from this research are aimed to positively impact care provision to this vulnerable and disadvantaged group.

REFERENCE

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2012. *Mental health services in Australia: mental health-related care in emergency departments*. [Accessed 21 May 2012] <http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au/services/emergency-departments/>

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